

~~INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

20 Dec 1948

COUNTRY Guatemala

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Activities of Col. Francisco Arana, Chief of the
Armed Forces

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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- B-6 1. The Consejo Superior de la Defensa of Guatemala has given Col. Arana, Guatemalan Chief of Armed Forces, until 15 December to "clean house." If he fails to act by that date, the Council itself is prepared to take steps. It is generally supposed that Arana is supported by the Council.
- B-2 2. Meantime Col. Arana made two moves in his private "cold war" with President Arevalo.
- On 19 November, Col. Arana ordered all automatic arms removed from the offices of the Presidential Military Staff in the National Palace.
 - On 22 November 1948, Col. Arana gave a dinner party for the President of Congress, Dr. Victor Manuel Giordiani Huerta, and other Deputies of the Frente Popular Libertador, after which they conferred until five the next morning. Arana tried to convince his guests that he has no personal ambitions, and expressed the hope that certain anti-administration opposition candidates would be successful in the coming elections.
3. Source stated that in the current game of political chess between Arana and President Arevalo, Arana definitely has the upper hand, but each is well acquainted with the moves of the other. Arana is at present content to wait for some incident to justify his "intervention" in the government.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763
Date: 10 MAY 1978 By: 24

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